



Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Medical Services

Office of Long Term Care Mail Slot S409

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<http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dms/Pages/oltcHome.aspx>

MEMORANDUM

LTC-A-2012-08

TO: ☒ Nursing Facilities; ☐ ICFs/MR 16 Bed & Over; ☐ HDCs;
☐ ICFs/MR Under 16 Beds; ☐ ALF Level I; ☐ ALF Level II;
☐ RCFs; ☐ Adult Day Cares; ☐ Adult Day Health Cares;
☐ Post-Acute Head Injury Facilities; ☒ Interested Parties;
☒ DHS County Offices

FROM: Carol Shockley, Director, Office of Long Term Care

DATE: August 24, 2012

RE: Advisory Memo - Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the attached Survey & Certification Letter 12-42-NH dated August 24, 2012, to promote awareness of the Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes program. Please see the attached for details concerning the program.

If you need this material in alternative format such as large print, please contact our Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 501-682-8307 (voice) or 501-682-6789 (TDD).

CS/bcs



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 12-42-NH

DATE: August 24, 2012

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Request to Convey Information: Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes

Memorandum Summary

- **Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes** - In 2012, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes to promote comprehensive dementia care and therapeutic interventions for nursing home residents with dementia-related behaviors.
- **Stakeholder Letters** - Stakeholders are sending letters to support the Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes.
- **Please Share** - Please share information about these documents as you communicate with facilities in your State and in other appropriate communication media (such as State website).

In 2012, CMS launched the Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes to promote comprehensive dementia care and therapeutic interventions for nursing home residents with dementia-related behaviors. The goals of this initiative include a focus on person-centered care and the reduction of unnecessary antipsychotic medication use in nursing homes and eventually other care settings as well.

CMS is using several approaches to successfully implement this initiative. CMS is developing and conducting trainings for nursing home providers, surveyors, and consumers. We are conducting research, raising public awareness, using regulatory oversight, and public reporting to increase transparency.

In addition, CMS has partnered with national organizations to encourage communication among the national organizations and their members. The American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) and the American Health Care Association (AHCA) have sent letters to their membership or State affiliates this summer. The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) sent a press release to their membership indicating their

support for the initiative.

AMDA's letter sought to educate members about the issues to achieve the goals of the Partnership and encourages nursing home medical directors to join with AMDA and CMS in reducing the unnecessary use of antipsychotic agents by refocusing the interdisciplinary team on a better understanding of the root cause of dementia-related behaviors. The letter further provides medical directors with the tools and resources they might use to achieve this goal. The letter is located on the AMDA website at http://www.amda.com/advocacy/antipsychotic_msg.pdf.

AHCA provided a template letter, along with the facility-specific data, to their State associations. AHCA's State associations were able to provide nursing facilities with the percentage of long-stay residents in their facilities that are currently being prescribed antipsychotic drugs for an off-label use. In addition to the information contained in the sample letter, some State associations may have also provided information regarding State-specific resources available to assist facilities with reducing the percentage of off-label use.

The Consumer Voice has advocated for the appropriate care for residents with dementia, which is important to residents, their families, and advocates. In meeting with former CMS Administrator Don Berwick, MD, and current Administrator Marilyn Tavenner, Consumer Voice advocated for strong leadership from CMS to end the misuse of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes. On March 28, 2012, Consumer Voice sent a press release to its members applauding CMS's new national initiative. The press release is located on the Consumer Voice website at <http://www.theconsumervoice.org/sites/default/files/nccnhr/campaign-to-end-antipsychotic-drug-use.pdf>

CMS is asking each State Agency to share information about these letters and press release with facilities in the Agency's communications with facilities, and in other appropriate communication media (such as State website).

If you have questions about the letter or CMS' Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Home, please contact Kathleen Wilson at (410) 786-1507 or Kathleen.Wilson@cms.hhs.gov.

CMS greatly appreciates the assistance from States in this matter.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management